

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1, lines 2:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/773,840, filed January 31, 2001.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, lines 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7 shows a variety of opening shapes and patterns for use in the present invention. The opening can be arranged in aligned or offset rows as shown in figures 7A and 7B. The openings can be circles, squares, triangles as shown in Figures 7A, 7B and 7C respectively or any other shape. The pattern of openings can be a combination of different sizes and shapes as shown in Figures 7D and 7E. The openings can be arranged to form large patterns as shown in Figure 7F. The size, spacing, arrangement, rotation/orientation and combination of openings are selectable based on a desired result for an illumination pattern. The holes preferably should be small enough to allow for a dense pattern while not significantly weakening the cover layer. It has been discovered that the holes should be clear of ash or foreign matter that may interfere with light transmission. Hole sizes preferably between .0100 and .060" have been shown to optimize the back lighting effect disclosed herein, including all increments therebetween. However, other sizes are certainly suitable, provided the backlighting is still obtained.